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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRASILIA 000927

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR WHA/BSC AND EB/TPP/IPE
STATE PASS TO USTR FOR SCRININ, LYANG AND BPECK
STATE PASS TO USPTO/OLIA
USDOC FOR 4332/ITA/MAC/WH/OLAC/JANDERSEN/ADRISCOLL/MWAR D
USDOC FOR 3134/ITA/USCS/OIO/WH/RD/DDEVITO/DANDERSON/EOL SON
NSC FOR KBREIER

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: LETTER FROM BRAZIL'S CONGRESSIONAL FRONT FOR THE
FIGHT AGAINST PIRACY AND TAX EVASION

REF A) BRASILIA 599, B) BRASILIA 487 (NOTAL) C) SAO PAULO

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11. (U) Eight Brazilian congressmen, members of the Congressional Front for the Fight Against Piracy and Tax Evasion, visited the Embassy on March 30 to deliver a letter addressed to the Ambassador regarding Brazil's inclusion on the Special 301 list and possible removal of GSP benefits. (Note, one was delayed and so did not sign the letter). An unofficial translation of the text of the letter follows in paragraph 4; original will be filed at Post.

12. (SBU) During the meeting with DCM, the deputies emphasized their commitment to enhancing IPR protection in Brazil in partnership with the GoB and the newly formed National Council to Combat Piracy and Intellectual Property Crimes, as well as with the private sector. They conveyed their view that a USG withdrawal of GSP benefits from Brazil at this time would be counterproductive to Brazil's efforts to improve its enforcement of intellectual property rights.

13. (SBU) In response, DCM noted that USG dialogue with the GoB on these issues over the past 10 months has been frank and constructive, adding that we are paying particular attention to the development of the National Council and the extent to which its activities will make systemic improvements in copyright protection in Brazil. DCM also observed that the USG has been encouraged by the recent increase in seizures in the Foz de Iguacu area.

14. (U) Start Text of Letter.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
CONGRESSIONAL FRONT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST PIRACY AND TAX
EVASION

Mr. Ambassador,

Faced with information divulged by the national and international press that Brazil has been included on the Special 301 list (list of countries that do little to fight piracy) and, because of this is facing sanctions by the North American government, including the possible removal of Brazil from the list of countries included on the "Generalized System of Preferences - GSP", please be advised of the following:

On July 8, 2004 representatives of the Congressional Investigative Committee (CPI), founded for the purpose of investigating facts related to piracy against industrialized products and tax evasion - Piracy CPI of the Chamber of Deputies, made an official visit to the U.S. Congress and presented an Open Letter to "The International Congressional Anti-Piracy Caucus", communicating the results of the CPI's Final Report as well as initiatives taken by the Brazilian Government in the fight against piracy, smuggling, tax evasion and embezzlement.

We should emphasize that since then, various actions have been taken for this purpose, in the area of enforcement with intensified customs inspections and creation of specialized anti-piracy sections in the Federal Police, and in the institutional area with the installation of the National Council for the Fight Against Piracy, which is already fully functioning.

We should point out that we are concerned with keeping Congressional actions alive, because piracy causes serious harm to our country through tax evasion, unemployment and paralysis of technological development among other things. Once the CPI work was concluded, we created the Congressional Front For the Fight Against Piracy and Tax Evasion, which developed an intense agenda of activities. Around 100 private entities, forming the National Forum of Entities against Piracy and Illegality, came together with

our support with the same objective.

We therefore come to you for the purpose of manifesting our concern regarding threats of sanctions since the Brazilian government has been taking a firm stand in the fight against piracy, with the support of the Brazilian Congress.

We take the liberty of expressing our opinions in an effort to ensure the continued good relationship between Brazil and the United States of America, and we hope the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative - USTR will review their position.

Brasilia, March 30, 2005

(signed)
Deputy Vanessa Grazziotin, General Coordinator of the Front
Deputy Josias Quintal
Deputy Sandes Junior
Deputy Laura Carneiro
Deputy Luiz Antonio Medeiros
Deputy Julio Lopes
Deputy Julio Semeghini

End Text.

CHICOLA